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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/805,005	03/18/2004	John Edwin Berberian	10030089-1	7780

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AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
Legal Department, DL 429
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 7599
Loveland, CO 80537-0599

EXAMINER

GOODLEY, JAMES E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2817

DATE MAILED: 08/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/805,005	Applicant(s) BERBERIAN ET AL.	
	Examiner James E. Goodley	Art Unit 2817	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-11 and 13-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by ***Zhu (of record)***.

Regarding **claims 1-4, 7, 10-11, 13-15, 18 and 21-22**, Fig. 7 and line 14 of column 14 to line 20 of column 15 of Zhu discloses an apparatus comprising:

a quantum absorber [104] comprising a material having first and second low energy states [g1 and g2 shown in Fig. 1] coupled to a common high energy state [e], transitions between said first low energy state and said common high energy state or between said second low energy state being induced by electromagnetic radiation (via laser light injected into the absorber and influence of intensity modulator 260);

an electromagnetic radiation source [laser 102] that generates electromagnetic radiation having first and second CPT-generating frequency components (ω_1 and ω_2 shown in Fig. 2 and in lines 45-56 of column 7), said first CPT-generating frequency component having a frequency $\omega_L - \omega$ (where ω_L is the average frequency between the g1 and g2 states and $\omega = \mu/2$; where μ is the frequency difference between the two lower CPT states), and a first CPT component amplitude and said second

CPT-generating frequency component having a frequency $u_L + u$ and a second CPT component amplitude, said first and second CPT-generating frequency components irradiating said quantum absorber;

a detector [106] for generating a detector signal [120] related to the power of electromagnetic radiation that leaves said quantum absorber, said detector signal exhibiting an asymmetry as a function of frequency u in a frequency range about a frequency u_0 (see lines 11-28 of column 12 and Fig. 5D);

a CPT servo loop [comprised of freq difference control 110 driving VCO 112 to influence the spectrum controller 214] that alters u in response to said detector signal; and

an asymmetry servo loop [comprised of AC stark shift detector 261] that alters one of u_L , said first CPT component amplitude, and said second CPT component amplitude in a manner that reduces said asymmetry (as per abstract, AC stark shift is reduced - via control signal 265 and spectrum control 214 from AC stark shift servo loop- which inherently alters the first and second ground state energy levels).

Regarding **claims 5 and 6**, Zhu discloses the apparatus of claim 1 wherein said electromagnetic radiation source comprises: a source [laser 102] that generates electromagnetic radiation having a frequency u_L in response to a first signal (output from laser current driver); and a modulator [intensity modulator driven by oscillator control signal 244 to modulate amplitude and freq. difference control loop to modulate frequency at 100Hz from oscillator control signal 142- as per lines 44-58 of column 14].

Regarding **claims 8 and 19**, the lines 15-17 of column 3 of Zhu discloses the apparatus of claim 1 and method of claim 13, wherein said electromagnetic radiation source may comprise first and second phase-locked lasers instead of modulating a single laser.

Regarding **claims 9 and 20**, Zhu discloses the apparatus of claim 1 and method of claim 13, wherein the first and second energy states of said quantum absorber differ in energy by an amount that is a function of the externally applied electromagnetic field from the laser light source.

Regarding **claims 16 and 17**, Fig. 7 of Zhu discloses the method of claim 13, wherein said electromagnetic radiation is generated via modulating the laser frequency at a frequency ν about ν_L (via carrier frequency control loop).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 12 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Zhu (of record)**.

Regarding **claims 12 and 23**, Zhu discloses the apparatus of claim 10 and method of claim 21 but does not specifically disclose, "wherein said ion is an isotope

selected from the group consisting of Be.sup.+, Mg.sup.+, Ca.sup.+, Sr.sup.+, Ba.sup.+, Zn.sup.+, Cd.sup.+, Hg.sup.+, and Yb.sup.+.”

Zhu suggests in lines 48-60 of column 12 that Cesium, Rubidium, any other alkali metal, or any other suitable atoms, ions or molecules may be used in the quantum absorber. Since the ions claimed are from group IIA and IIB of the periodic table, these elements have similar properties to the alkali metals of group IA. One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that the elements may perform similar functions in an atomic frequency standard, but that they differ in their ionization energies, energy level transitions and corresponding frequencies of operation. According to the application at hand, one might choose among these elements based on the desired frequency of operation in a CPT frequency standard.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Zhu by utilizing any of the above isotopes as the quantum absorber instead of Cesium or Rubidium for the purpose of ensuring the desired frequency and energy level transitions for the frequency standard.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, filed 6/12/2005, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1 and 13 under 35 USC 102 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Vanier does not appear to disclose reducing asymmetry of the output detector signal. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground of rejection is made under 35 USC 102 in view of Zhu (of record).

The Zhu reference discloses in Figs. 5D and 7 and lines 11-28 of column 12 that by using an AC modulation signal which is superimposed on a DC drive signal to the laser light source, incident light to the quantum absorber will have intensities that are asymmetrical as a function of frequency, about the carrier frequency – as a result of the AC stark shift. Furthermore, lines 8-19 of column 15 clearly discloses that the stark shift detector [261 of Fig. 7] in conjunction with spectrum controller [214] will, “modify the spectrum of the incident light to one that minimizes the magnitude of the total a.c. stark shift.” Thus, the Zhu reference does disclose, at least, the features of claims 1 and 13 in that it discloses reducing asymmetry of the detector signal intensity about the carrier frequency by nature of reducing AC stark shift.

Other arguments are moot in view of this new rejection and corresponding interpretation of the Zhu reference.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James E. Goodley whose telephone number is (571)-272-8598. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert J. Pascal can be reached on (571) 272-1769. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2817

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Robert Pascal, is positioned above the printed name and title.

Robert Pascal
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800

JG